

- Application No. 09/919,917
- Reply to Office Action of July 24, 2006

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-23, 25-28, and 30-33 are pending in the present application, Claims 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, and 30 having been amended, and Claims 15, 24, and 29 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Abstract was objected to; Claims 15 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kochiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,400,036, hereinafter Kochiyama) in view of Wagstaff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,356,510, hereinafter Wagstaff), and further in view of Stein (U.S. Patent No. 4,714,802); and Claims 16-23 and 25-28 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicant notes that Claims 29-33, which were added by the amendment filed on September 27, 2005, were not addressed in the outstanding Office Action. However, Claims 30-33 are believed to be allowable.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this application, Claims 16, 18, 20, 22, 25, and 30 are amended to be written in independent form. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 16, 18, 20, 22, 25, and 30 (and all claims dependent thereon) are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, in view of the previous discussion and in view of the present amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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